



## **King County**

Department of Transportation

Airport Division

King County International Airport/Boeing Field

# **Sound Insulation Program**

## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS KCIA'S SOUND INSULATION PROGRAM**

### **Program Qualification**

#### **Q: Which homes are eligible to receive sound insulation improvements?**

A: Homes in noise contours from 65 dB DNL or greater within the Noise Mitigation Boundary, as outlined in KCIA's FAR Part 150 Study, are eligible to be in the Program.

#### **Q: What must I do in order to qualify for sound insulation improvements?**

A: According to Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) regulations, homes (except mobile homes) with an outside noise level of 65 dB DNL<sup>1</sup> or greater are eligible for interior noise testing unless they were constructed after October 1998. FAA rules also require the inside level of noise to be 45 dB DNL or greater in order to qualify for Airport-paid sound insulation improvements. Phase I of the Program's homes have been qualified by FAA based upon sample noise testing. Phase II homes must be individually noise tested in order to qualify.

### **Program Timing**

#### **Q: Which homes will be soundproofed?**

A: KCIA receives FAA funding for homes in Phase I (approximately 327 homes). It is estimated that KCIA will be sound insulating approximately 100 homes each calendar year. The time to complete the entire program is contingent upon how many homes qualify and the amount of Federal and County funding available; but the program is estimated to continue until 2014.

Generally it takes two weeks to completely install sound insulation products into a single residence. The exception is with "historic" homes, which require twice (or more) the amount of time for construction since ordering and installing wood windows requires more time.

### **Legal Requirements**

#### **Q: Why must I sign an Avigation Easement?**

A: The State of Washington prohibits cities, counties and municipal corporations from providing a gift to any individual, unless the individual is poor or infirm. Consequently, you will be required to sign an Avigation Easement (flyover rights) in exchange for the installation of insulating home improvements. KCIA will conduct a title search and the Avigation Easement is recorded with the title of your home as a permanent easement. The easement remains on the property and transfers with the property title to a new Homeowner if the home is sold.

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<sup>1</sup> DNL means the day-night annual average level of aircraft noise.

**Q: Do I need to accept all of the recommended modifications to my home in order to participate in the program?**

A: The sound insulation package recommended for your home is a customized package designed to meet the required FAA guidelines for noise reduction. Therefore, each qualified home will receive the same type of acoustical windows, etc.; however, Homeowners are able to select from a limited variety of colors and styles.

**Q: The Sound Insulation Contract and Avigation Easement use terms I don't understand. May I have a lawyer look over these forms?**

A: Absolutely. These forms will become legally binding agreements, and you are entitled to know exactly what you are signing. Homeowners sometimes feel more comfortable after having their attorney review them first.

If you want any Program materials translated or interpreted, please contact Program staff at 206-205-0668 and it will be arranged. However, the Program will not reimburse Homeowners for legal services.

**Q: Will my utility bills change?**

A: In most cases, a sound insulated house operates more efficiently with less energy usage. After modifications, your house should perform better thermally, as well as acoustically.

**Q: Will my property taxes go up?**

A: According to King County Assessor's Office, "King County might change the condition or grade of a home that has had considerable upgrades. And, this may or may not increase value. The changing of grade or condition would be equitable to all as a result of inspections conducted by King County Assessor's Office, or what additional information was given to them, and in an overall analysis of the specific market area."

### **Design and Construction Phases**

**Q: What if I recently remodeled my home and added new windows and doors. Can I be reimbursed for my window and door expenses?**

A: New windows and/or doors added by the Homeowner prior to participation in this Program are not eligible for reimbursement according to FAA regulations. Also, any additions made to the home after the completion of the sound insulation modifications are not eligible for future treatment.

Normally, windows manufactured for building supply retailers do not have sufficient STC (Standard Transmission Class) ratings. The higher the STC rating, the thicker the glazing (glass) and greater noise reduction occurs. Moreover, the windows KCIA will specify for this Program have a 44 STC rating because a higher STC rating (such as 47) would be too heavy for homeowners to clean and maintain.

**Q: Is there a warranty on the products installed?**

A: Yes. There will be manufacturer's warranties on the windows and doors, as well as standard warranties on all other products used. A one-year warranty is provided on the contractor's installation.